AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims, including all prior versions, with the listing of claims found below.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A charge metering method for data transmission in a telephone network employing a circuit-switched transmission network including exchanges which control and allocate network resources, comprising:

storing at least one electronic credit which includes a statement on the amount of use of transmission units of a data transmission the telephone network on two terminals operated on the data transmission network;

controlling [[the]] use of data transmission units of the data transmission telephone network by two control units;

transmitting a credit for use of [[the]] a data transmission path to an assigned control unit; and

clearing the data transmission units of the data transmission telephone network to use the data transmission path based on [[the]] credit received.

2.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the terminals sends the other terminal the at least one electronic credit, and the credit coming from the one terminal is sent by the other terminal to the assigned control unit.

3.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the terminal sending the credit is the terminal beginning the data transmission or the terminal responding to a network-side request for data transmission.

4.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic credit is issued in conjunction with the data transmission path which is to be set up or has been set up.

dc-384901

5.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic credit includes at least a statement of the data transmission path including at least one of an identification of the terminal beginning the data transmission, an identification of the other terminal, an identification for the interface used in the data transmission of the terminal beginning the data transmission, an identification for the interface used in the data transmission of the other terminal and an identification for a transmission protocol used in the data transmission, wherein the statement is checked by the control units.

6.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a period of validity or a date of validity is electronically fixed for the at least one electronic credit, and the period of validity is at least one of less than approximately five minutes, less than approximately one minute or less than approximately 30 seconds from the issue of the electronic credit, and the period of validity and/or the date of validity are checked by the control units.

7.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the statement included in the at least one electronic credit is protected with the aid of a cryptographic method, and the control units check the genuineness of the at least one electronic credit.

8.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the statement included in the credits is protected with the aid of a cryptographic method, and the control units check the genuineness of the electronic credits.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~data transmission~~ <u>telephone</u> network is a data transmission network operating in accordance with Internet Protocol, and/or for setting up the data transmission path the protocol SIP is used, and/or for allocating the network resources of the data transmission network the protocol RSVP or a protocol for the method DiffServ is used.

10.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is used for the transmission of voice data as part of a telephone service.

11.   (Currently amended) A ~~system~~ telephone network employing a circuit-switched transmission network including exchanges which control and allocate network resources, comprising:

two terminals operated on a data transmission network storing at least one electronic credit which includes a statement on [[the]] an amount of use of transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network; and

two control units in which [[the]] use of data transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network is controlled, wherein

the terminals transmit a credit for use of [[the]] a data transmission path to an assigned control unit, and ~~depending~~ based on [[the]] credit received, the control units clear the transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network to use the data transmission path.

12.   (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having a program with a series of commands, a processor of a telephone network employing a circuit switched transmission network including exchanges which control and allocate network resources, executing the program to perform:

storing at least one electronic credit which includes a statement on [[the]] an amount of use of transmission units of a data transmission network on two terminals operated on the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network;

controlling the use of data transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network by two control units;

transmitting a credit for use of [[the]] a data transmission path to an assigned control unit; and

clearing the transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network to use the data transmission path based on [[the]] credit received.

13.   (Currently amended) A control unit in which data transmission units of a ~~data transmission~~ telephone network employing a circuit switched transmission network including exchanges which control and allocate network resources, is controlled, wherein a terminal transmits a credit for use of [[the]] a data transmission path to [[the]] an assigned control unit, and ~~depending~~ based on [[the]] credit received, the control unit clears the transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network to use the data transmission path.

14.   (Currently amended) A terminal operated on a ~~data transmission~~ telephone network employing a circuit switched transmission network including exchanges which control and allocate network resources, storing at least one electronic credit which includes a statement on [[the]] an amount of use of transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network, wherein

the terminal transmits a credit for use of [[the]] a data transmission path to an assigned control unit, and ~~depending~~ based on [[the]] credit received, the control unit clears the transmission units of the ~~data transmission~~ telephone network to use the data transmission path.